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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
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Selected Speeches and News Releases

Nov. 12 - Nov. 19, 1992

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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GYPSY-MOTH THREAT PROMPTS USDA'S NEW LOOK AT NATIONAL PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking for public comment to help update its management strategy to control the destructive gypsy moth, a USDA official announced today.

"Gypsy moths annually defoliate over four million acres of federal, state and privately-owned forests and shade trees and threaten millions of dollars worth of natural resources," said F. Dale Robertson, chief of USDA's Forest Service. "For a solid, effective management strategy, it's essential we involve the public in our analysis of a national gypsy moth program."

Knowledge about controlling gypsy moths has grown since the program was approved in 1985, Robertson said. The Forest Service and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have teamed up to take a new look at ways to prevent damage to the 287 million acres of U.S. forest land susceptible to the gypsy moth.

Asian gypsy moths were found in the fall of 1991 in the Pacific Northwest, making the situation more urgent. This variety of gypsy moth can spread much faster than the European variety, which infests northeastern United States.

Although APHIS, the Forest Service and the states of Washington and Oregon worked hard in the spring to eradicate Asian gypsy moths, final results are not yet in, Robertson said.

The new gypsy moth management program will take two to three years to complete and will replace or confirm the current program. USDA is following requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act to involve the public early on, when proposing activities that may effect the environment.

The request for comments will be published in the Nov. 12 Federal Register. Submissions are requested as soon as possible but no later than March 15. Comments referring to the gypsy moth program should be sent to John Hazel, gypsy moth team leader, USDA, Forest Service, 5 Radnor

Corporate Center, 100 Matsonford Road, Suite 200, P.O. Box 6775, Radnor, Pa. 19087-4585. For more information on call Hazel at (215) 975-4150.

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FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL NAMED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today appointed 19 members to the Florida National Scenic Trail Advisory Council.

The purpose of the council is to secure advice from a variety of interested agencies, governments, organizations and individuals who have a concern with the development and administration of the trail.

The Florida National Scenic Trail is a long-distance trail which will traverse the length of Florida. It will begin at Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida's panhandle and end approximately 1300 miles south at Big Cypress National Preserve.

The trail will highlight many of the unique ecosystems and land forms of the state including Florida's beaches, sandhill communities, cypress swamps and pine flatwoods.

Boyd Close, Perry, Fla., representing the Florida Forestry Association, was appointed to head the council. Other members, all from Florida, appointed to represent organizations and interested groups include: W. Dale Allen, Tallahassee, Trust for Public Lands; Margo Atwood-Langstaff, Ocklawaha, Friends of Doe Lake; Ernest Baldini, Cocoa Beach, Florida Trail Association.

Also, Michael L. Gaff, Cross City, Packaging Corp. of America; Philip P. Gornicki, Tallahassee, Florida Forestry Association; Ethel C. Palmer, Clearwater, Florida Trail Association; Robert A. Richardson, Sarasota, Sierra Club; Deborah R. Stewart-Kent, Jacksonville, Florida Trail Association; and Ben Swendsen, Ft. Myers, Lykes Inc.

Members appointed to represent the Florida state government are: Don Gerteisen, Tallahassee, Department of Natural Resources; James R. Karels, Tallahassee, Division of Forestry; Friedrich E. H. Schiller, Palm Beach Gardens, South Florida Water Management District; and Frank Hubert Smith

Jr., Tallahassee, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Members representing federal agencies are: Lawrence Kolk, Tallahassee, Forest Service; William Carroll, Ochopee, National Park Service; Robin Will, Tallahassee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Paul Ebersbach, Avon Park, U.S. Air Force; and Jerry Eubanks, Gulf Breeze, National Park Service.

The first meeting of the council is planned for February 1993. The exact date and location will be announced. The public is invited to attend all meetings of the Council.

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Janise Zygmont (202) 720-7954
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Nov. 12—Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, through midnight Thursday, Nov. 19.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 75 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 6.07 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	39.10 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	75
II.	USNE Price	58.85 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-52.78</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	6.07 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	52.78
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	39.10
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	39.10 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	52.78
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-49.27</u>
	3.51
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
	-0.44
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to

the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.82 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the		USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
	Friday through	Thursday				
1	Oct. 22, 1992		58.50	52.70	5.80	4.55
2	Oct. 29, 1992		55.90	51.85	4.05	2.80
3	Nov. 5, 1992		56.65	52.11	4.54	3.29
4	Nov. 12, 1992		58.85	52.78	6.07	4.82

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Nov. 19.

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1992/93 WHEAT FLOUR EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced a 2.01 million metric ton, multi-country package of initiatives under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program to boost sales of U.S. wheat flour, effective immediately.

The new package of wheat flour initiatives to seven countries or regions replaces all EEP wheat flour initiatives announced previously and includes

Lebanon and Slovenia as the 144th and 145th initiatives announced. It also adds Ghana to the Sub-Saharan Africa regional initiative. All seven initiatives remain in effect through June 30, 1993. Additional destinations and quantities may be added later.

Wheat flour sales under EEP in fiscal 1992 were about 253,000 metric tons.

"The European Community, with its high subsidies on wheat flour, supplies about 80 percent of the world commercial trade of flour," Madigan said. "With today's announcement we are allowing U.S. flour exporters an opportunity to compete against EC exporters who receive, on average, a subsidy of \$180 a ton—an amount equal to the sales price."

"While we hope that the EC eventually will reform its agricultural policies, we remain committed to helping U.S. farmers remain competitive in the world marketplace," he said.

Madigan said that "bundling" of wheat flour initiatives also will help avert sales disruptions, give farmers, exporters and foreign buyers greater certainty on sales and make the United States a more reliable supplier.

The package of initiatives announced today, in metric tons, includes:

Country or Region	Metric Tons
Algeria	120,000
Egypt	600,000
Former Soviet Union (12)	400,000
Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia	
Lebanon	50,000
Slovenia	40,000
Sub-Saharan Africa (29)	500,000
Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe	
Yemen	300,000
Total	2,010,000

Sales of wheat flour will be made to buyers in all countries announced today through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. For the former Soviet Union only, USDA also will allow sales to third-country buyers, which will permit third-country purchasers of goods exported from the former Soviet Union to act as buyers for wheat flour destined for the former Soviet Union. The export sales will be facilitated with cash bonus payments. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in these markets.

EEP invitations for each of the countries or regions will be issued immediately. For more information, call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or L.T. McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Susan Conley (202) 690-0351

Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

Issued: Nov. 13, 1992

USDA OFFERS A MINI-COURSE ON MICROWAVING YOUR HOLIDAY BIRD

WASHINGTON—Tradition is tradition, but wouldn't it be great to spend less time in the kitchen...especially on Thanksgiving Day?

Why not microwave that Thanksgiving bird! Since microwave ovens cook differently than conventional ovens, the Thanksgiving chef may need a "mini" course on "micro" cooking.

Susan Conley, manager of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline, offers these important food safety tips for microwaving a turkey.

1. Choose a small turkey (under 12 pounds). There needs to be at least three inches of clearance between the bird and the sides and top of the microwave oven. If you try to squeeze too large a bird into too small an oven, the turkey will not cook properly. Some areas may be overcooked, but other areas may be undercooked.

2. Use an oven cooking bag. These specially designed nylon bags promote even cooking, which helps the turkey in the microwave reach a safe temperature throughout.

3. Rotate the bird and dish several times during cooking, even if you have a carousel or turntable in your microwave.

4. Do not cook a stuffed bird in the microwave. The bones and density of

the bird may not allow the moist stuffing deep inside the bird to reach a safe temperature.

5. Microwave the unstuffed bird at 50 percent power for approximately 7-10 minutes per pound (less than two hours for an 11-pound turkey). This allows the heat to penetrate the bird without overcooking outer areas.

6. Always use a meat thermometer to determine doneness. Check the bird in several locations before standing time. The turkey should be a minimum of 170 degrees Fahrenheit when removed from the microwave.

7. Let the bird stand for 20 minutes after removing from the microwave. This is critical—**FOOD COMPLETES COOKING DURING THE STANDING TIME**. Final temperature should be 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

For more information on preparing meat and poultry safely, call USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline. The national tollfree number is 1-800-535-4555. Washington, D.C. area residents may call (202) 720-3333.

The tollfree hotline will be open weekdays in November, and on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Hours on Thanksgiving Day are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Callers with touch-tone phones also can find answers to many holiday food safety questions by selecting from a variety of recorded messages, which are available 24 hours a day.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: USDA AQUACULTURE GUIDE AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—A guide to federal aquaculture activities is available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Information Center (AIC) at the National Agricultural Library.

"Aquaculture: A Guide to Federal Government Programs" provides specific descriptions of the aquaculture activities of 28 federal agencies and lists addresses and telephone numbers to contact for more information.

Copies of the guide are available by contacting: Aquaculture Information Center, National Agricultural Library, Room 304, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, Md. 20705-2351; telephone, (301) 504-5558.

The National Agricultural Library is one of three national libraries of the United States, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine. With over two million volumes, NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world.

Brian Norris (301) 504-6778

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MEDIA ADVISORY: USDA PRODUCES AGRONOMY JOURNAL ON CD-ROM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library has produced a CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) containing the "Agronomy Journal" from 1907 through 1924.

The disc is the first product under the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Program and was produced with assistance from the American Society of Agronomy.

In addition to full-page images, "Agronomy Journal, Volumes 1-16" includes bibliographic records created by NAL's indexing staff to allow quick searching and accessing of the images on the disc. The retrieval software, Windows Personal Librarian from Personal Library Software, Rockville, Md., is also included on the disc.

NAL has given copies of the Agronomy Journal disc to the agricultural libraries of land-grant and 1890 universities throughout the United States.

Brian Norris (301) 504-6778

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Robin Porter (301) 436-6573
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USDA ESTABLISHES QUARANTINE TO STOP SPREAD OF PINE SHOOT BEETLE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture established a quarantine today in six Northeastern states to prevent the spread of the pine shoot beetle, an exotic pest of pine trees.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in cooperation with state officials, is restricting the movement of pine products from 42 infested counties in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana.

"The quarantine requires a certificate or limited permit for the movement of pine Christmas trees, nursery stock, and bark-covered pine, spruce, larch, and fir logs and lumber," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine.

"This action will significantly reduce the risk of the beetle spreading to other regions of the country while allowing most producers to move their product," Lee said.

Pine shoot beetles were first discovered in July on a Christmas tree farm in Lorain County, Ohio. Since then, APHIS and state officials have been

conducting surveys to determine the extent of the infestation. Most of the beetle finds have been in Christmas tree farms.

The beetle attacks new shoots of pine trees, stunting their growth. Pine shoot beetle is the leading pest of pines in Europe, Lee said. The pest prefers Scotch Pine but has been found feeding on Eastern White Pine, Mugo, Austrian, Jack and Red pines. Spruce, larch and fir trees also can be affected.

The pine shoot beetle feeds on trees growing outdoors. There is no danger whatsoever should a beetle get inside a person's home, Lee said.

Federal state and industry officials are working together to develop a program to prevent the beetle-infested area from getting larger.

"Since 1985, APHIS has made nearly 100 interceptions of the pest at U.S. ports of entry," Lee said. "We believe the beetles may have originated from wood on freighters transiting the Great Lakes region."

The following counties are affected by the quarantine action:

—Illinois: Kane County;

—Indiana: Allen, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lagrange, Lake, La Porte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Wells and Whitley Counties;

—Michigan: Berrien, Cass, Monroe and St. Joseph Counties;

—New York: Erie and Niagara Counties;

—Ohio: Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne Counties;

—Pennsylvania: Crawford, Erie and Lawrence Counties.

The interim rule will be published in a future Federal Register.

Written comments are welcome and will be accepted if they are received within 60 days after publication of the ruling the Federal Register. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. The comments should refer to docket number 92-139-1.

Comments received may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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COLOMBIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE MILK POWDER UNDER DEIP

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced that Colombia is eligible for an additional 1,000 metric tons of milk powder under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of milk powder will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

This milk powder allocation will be valid until Dec. 31, as provided in the invitation for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Richard J. Chavez, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Doris Stanley (301) 504-8767
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

FIELD TESTS PLANNED FOR GENETICALLY ALTERED PLUM TREES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists have taken the first step toward seeing if plum trees can resist a virus now damaging orchards throughout Europe.

USDA horticulturist Ralph Scorza said that a new gene has been inserted into 36 plum trees that may protect them from plum pox virus. He said the trees will be planted today on a test plot in Kearneysville, West Va.

Plum pox virus, one of the most serious diseases of plums and apricots in Europe, is not present in this country, said Scorza, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "If the new gene works in these trees, we may have future insurance against the virus, should it appear," he said.

"The potential increase of travel and exchange of goods between the United States and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union heightens the risk of this disease striking our orchards," Scorza said.

A coating of protein usually surrounds a virus, he said. The gene that Scorza and colleagues used is from the protein coat of the papaya ringspot

virus. This gene has been used in other crops to protect them against other viruses.

"It's this protein that we're looking for in the new plum trees," Scorza said.

"These experimental trees will not be infected with the plum pox virus," he said. That part of the research will be done by cooperating scientists in France who will infect trees carrying the gene to test virus resistance.

Scorza and colleagues from USDA, Cornell University and Upjohn Company developed the genetically altered trees which were grown in greenhouses at the ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville.

"We have 36 trees that we will plant on a half-acre plot. These trees don't look any different from normal plum trees. They grow normally and react just as other trees do to greenhouse insect pests, pesticides and fertilizers," Scorza said. Only scientific tests of plant tissue can differentiate the trees.

Kearneysville scientists will periodically test for presence of the virus coat protein in different parts of the trees as they mature throughout the growing season, he said. Productivity and fruit quality will also be measured.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has approved the field tests. All federal guidelines for field planting genetically altered plants have been followed, Scorza said. That includes isolating the plot from other plum trees and taking measures to control the possible spread of pollen.

Scorza said plum pox, or Sharka, virus "is a potential threat to our stone fruit production and a major concern of U.S. plant quarantine agencies." He said the disease is widespread throughout European countries including England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and the former Soviet Union.

The major economic impact of the disease results from fruit dropping from affected trees 20 to 40 days before maturity, he said. The few fruit left on the trees are unmarketable. Although plum and apricot have been the most severely affected, he said, strains of the virus that particularly affect peach are spreading. The seed-borne virus is also spread by aphids and through grafting.

To protect U.S. peach, cherry, plum and apricot orchards from this foreign invader, ARS scientists have already developed reliable ways to detect plum pox virus and to differentiate strains.

If proven successful with plum trees, the technique of conferring resistance through genetic alteration will be used on other virus diseases that plague U.S. tree fruit crops.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Ralph Scorza, horticulturist, Appalachian Fruit Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Kearneysville, W. Va. 25430. Telephone (304) 725-3451.

Ben Hardin (309) 685-4011
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

NITROGEN CAN BOOST YIELDS FOR IRRIGATED SOYBEANS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—Semi-dwarf soybean yields could hit 100 bushels per acre under high-production management if the beans are irrigated and treated to some extra nitrogen, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Agronomist Richard L. Cooper of USDA's Agricultural Research Service and colleagues in Australia reached the 100-bushel mark in tests in South Queensland, Australia. Cooper said nitrogen fertilizer was applied to soil where beans were planted in 7-inch rows. The beans were continuously irrigated to maintain a 10-inch water table.

He said unfertilized soybeans produced 80 bushels per acre. Normal nonirrigated yields are 30 to 40 bushels in Australia and 40 to 50 bushels per acre in the U.S.

"The study showed us the next major barrier we must overcome in this country to increase soybean yield and production efficiency in high-yield environments involves the plants' uptake and use of nitrogen," he said.

Cooper said one practical answer may be to improve nitrogen fixation—the soybean plant's process of transforming atmospheric nitrogen into a form the plant can use to aid growth.

Cooper and his colleagues have already overcome several obstacles to high soybean yields. For example, they developed semi-dwarf varieties to overcome lodging, the tendency of growing plants to fall over, dumping their beans on the ground. Cooper found that these semi-dwarf varieties were most productive when planted in 7-inch rows.

Cooper and ARS soil scientist Norman R. Fausey of Columbus, Ohio, also found that soybean yields increased about 19 percent where the water table was maintained at 16 inches from the soil surface compared with 28 inches.

That higher yield was due to an irrigation and drainage system that holds water levels constant in the soil for the growing season. During the two driest years, yields of soybeans with the 16-inch water table averaged 80 bushels per acre, surpassing yields from non-irrigated soybeans by 24 bushels per acre.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Richard L. Cooper, research agronomist, Corn and Soybean Research Unit, 209 William Hall, ARS, USDA, Wooster, OH 44691. Telephone: (216) 263-3875.

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Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
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USDA ANNOUNCES 1993 CROP LOAN RATES FOR SOYBEANS AND MINOR OILSEEDS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced 1993 national average loan rates of \$5.02 per bushel for soybeans and \$8.90 per hundredweight for each of the minor oilseeds (sunflower seed, flaxseed, canola, rapeseed, mustard seed and safflower seed). Each loan rate is the statutory minimum and unchanged from the 1992 rates. The CCC is required to announce the national average loan rates by Nov. 15. County loan rates will be announced later.

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NO ADJUSTMENT IN 1993 FEED GRAIN ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced there will be no adjustment to the acreage reduction program percentages for the 1993 crops of corn, grain sorghum, barley and oats.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, requires the secretary to announce the feed grain ARP on or before Sept. 30. On Sept. 29 the secretary announced 1993 feed grain ARP percentages of 10 percent for corn, 5 percent for grain sorghum and zero percent for barley and oats.

The secretary is also authorized to make adjustments in the 1993 program not later than Nov. 15 if the total supply of feed grains changed significantly after the 1993 ARPs were first announced. Since the initial announcement, estimated feed grain supplies for the 1993 crop are up about 5 percent. Secretary Madigan determined that the change was insufficient to warrant adjustment in the ARP percentage.

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USDA ADDS TO LIST OF PLANTS RESISTANT TO BLACK STEM RUST

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has added several species of barberry to its list of black stem rust-resistant plants.

Baisel, Tara, Intermedia, Monlers, William Penn and Crimson Pygmy can now leave quarantined areas if they are accompanied by a certificate.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service keeps a list of plants that are resistant and non-resistant to black stem rust in its plant regulations. APHIS helps enforce a nationwide quarantine that restricts the interstate movement of plants susceptible to black stem rust.

"This ruling will let growers move these newly developed varieties without unnecessary restrictions," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for APHIS's plant protection and quarantine program. "Rust-resistant plants do not pose a risk of spreading black stem rust."

Black stem rust is one of the most destructive plant diseases of grains. The disease is caused by a fungus that reduces the quality and yield of wheat, oat, barley, and rye crops by robbing host plants of food and water. The fungus is spread by wind blown spores and can live on a variety of other host plants.

The additions become effective today and are published in today's Federal Register.

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Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Keith Bjerke today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.88 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.96 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.93 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.44 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$1.16 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$1.12 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$1.13 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. EST.

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Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222
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USDA ALLOTS OPERATION OF 13 NEW PRIVATE BIRD IMPORT STATIONS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has selected 13 applicants from more than 20,000 applications to operate new, privately-run, government-inspected import and quarantine facilities for birds and hatching eggs of ostriches and other ratites.

Billy Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the 13 newly approved stations and the successful applicants for each are:

Miami, Fla. (6 locations)—Bret Hawkins, Grand Prairie, Texas; Porchie Grady III, Brownsville, Texas; Daniel Toney, Sacramento, Calif.; Karen Lebeda, Garfield, N.J.; Barbara Gross, Sacramento, Calif.; Belinda Hacksteden, Rochelle Park, N.J.

Newark, N.J. (2 locations)—Violet Blatchly, San Jose, Calif.; Alan Skvorecz, Boca Raton, Fla.

Nogales, Ariz. (1 location)—David Robinson, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Phoenix, Ariz. (1 location)—Kim Payne, Stillwater, Okla.

Del Rio, Texas (1 location)—James Salvemini, East Patchogue, N.Y.

Laredo, Texas (1 location)—Glenda King, Pensacola, Fla.

McAllen, Texas (1 location)—Arthur Henderson, Edmond, Okla.

APHIS announced plans for the 13 new stations—and a lottery to select operators to run them—in the July 29 Federal Register (USDA news release No. 0716-92).

The response overwhelmed the agency, Johnson said. The lottery had to be postponed for more than a month to allow the applications to be processed

properly. When additional stations are needed, APHIS plans to use a less cumbersome selection system, he said.

Each applicant could bid on each of the available 13 openings, so about 2,000 persons were responsible for the 20,000-plus applications received.

"The response doubtlessly was fueled by the current boomlet in trading of eggs of ostriches and other large, flightless birds, known as ratites," Johnson said.

Johnson said operating a quarantine station is no simple matter. Those selected must make a formal application to operate a facility, sign a cooperative agreement with APHIS, build or convert a facility with the proper sanitary and physical security, and deposit \$10,000 in a trust fund to cover laboratory work and government inspection involved in operating the station.

Successful applicants have 18 months to implement their plans. Johnson estimates, however, it will take only a few months to bring the first of the 13 stations on line.

Privately run, government supervised quarantine stations were instituted when demand for imported pet and exotic birds far outstripped available government import and quarantine facilities about 15 years ago. In addition to the 13 new stations, 75 such stations have previously been approved. About 30 stations currently are active and operating.

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1992 CROP WHEAT MAY NOT ENTER FARMER-OWNED RESERVE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today that 1992-crop wheat will not be allowed into the Farmer-Owned Reserve.

"I am making this announcement now because it is clear the conditions to allow entry into the FOR do not exist and conditions are not likely to change before Dec. 15," said Madigan. "I want producers to be able to plan their marketing and price support activities accordingly."

Under farm law, a decision on entry of 1992-crop wheat into the FOR must be announced by December 15.

The secretary must allow entry when the average market price for wheat for the 90 days preceding the announcement is less than 120 percent of the wheat price support rate and the 1992 estimated wheat ending stocks-to-use ratio is more than 37.5 percent. If one condition is met the secretary may allow entry. If neither condition is met, there is no authority to allow entry of 1992-crop wheat into the FOR.

The following factors were used in this decision:

- 120 percent of the wheat price support rate, \$2.65 per bushel;
- day wheat average market price, \$3.17 per bushel;
- estimated 1992/93 wheat ending stocks, 523 million bushels;
- estimated 1992/93 wheat total use, 2,458 million bushels; and
- estimated 1992/93 wheat ending stocks-to-use ratio, 21.3 percent.

The source for the last three factors is the Nov. 10, 1992 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

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